

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**More on the BENHS logo**—after much soul-searching we have our Society logo! Imagine my surprise when I was sent, by one of my Spanish colleagues, the volume of programme and resumés for the 1996 Iberian Congress of Entomology, which I had hoped to attend. . . . I have photocopied the cover! — PETER H. LANGTON




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## SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Sciapus maritimus* Becker (Diptera: Dolichopodidae) in Britain.**— Whilst attending the annual summer field meeting of the Dipterists Forum at Ayr in 1995 I visited the coastal dunes at Turnberry (NS/19.05) on 3.vii in company with other members of the party. On the seaward side of the dunes I swept, from amongst the scattered vegetation, several male specimens of a *Sciapus* which I subsequently identified as *maritimus*, using the key in the paper by Meuffels & Grootaert (1990). Mr J. H. Cole who was in the party tells me that he also collected examples of this species.

This appears to be the first confirmed occurrence of the true *Sciapus maritimus* in Britain and bears out, in part, the prediction of Speight (1991) that all four of the western European species of the *contristans* group (of which *maritimus* is one) will be found in Britain.

The publication of the paper by Meuffels & Grootaert was noted by Mr C. E. Dyte in the *Empid and Dolichopodid Study Group Newsheet* No. 10, September 1991, commenting that it demonstrates that there has been much confusion over both the recognition of, and names applied to *Sciapus contristans* and its relatives. Mr Dyte has recently pointed out to me (*in litt.*) that males running to *maritimus* in the key in Assis Fonseca (1978) could be *maritimus*, *basilicus* or *zonatulus*; this means records of *maritimus* in the British literature could relate to any of these species. It is likely, though not certain, that British material previously under the name *maritimus* would be *zonatulus* because no specimens of true *maritimus* or *basilicus* have hitherto been reported from Britain.

I am obliged to Mr C. E. Dyte and Mr J. H. Cole for helpful advice and to the latter for permission to report his record. My thanks also to Dr P. Grootaert for the gift of his joint paper.—R. CROSSLEY, 1 The Cloisters, Wilberfoss, York YO4 5RF.

## REFERENCES

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- Meuffels, H. J. G. & Grootaert, P. 1990. The identity of *Sciapus contristans* (Wiedemann, 1817) (Diptera:Dolichopodidae), and a revision of the species group of its relatives. *Bulletin de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique Entomologie* 60: 161–178.
- Speight, M. C. D. 1991. *Sciapus zonatulus* (Zett., 1843) in Great Britain (Dolichopodidae). *Dipterists Digest* 8: 39.